PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION ON CHICAGO LANDMARKS IN MAY 2006

MUNDELEIN COLLEGE SKYSCRAPER BUILDING

(NOW MUNDELEIN CENTER, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO)
1020 W. SHERIDAN RD.

BUILT: 1930-31
ARCHITECTS: NAIRNE W. FISHER & JOSEPH W. MCCARTHY

The Mundelein College Skyscraper Building is one of Chicago's most visually distinctive educational buildings. Rising 14 stories above Chicago's Far North Side lakefront, the Mundelein "skyscraper," as it has popularly been known since its completion in 1931, is one of the City's finest neighborhood high-rise buildings. Designed in the Art Deco architectural style, it has a distinctive setback form and geometric and abstracted foliate ornament typical of this "modernistic" style. Located at Sheridan Road's prominent curve inward from the lakefront, it remains a visual landmark for the Edgewater and Rogers Park neighborhoods.

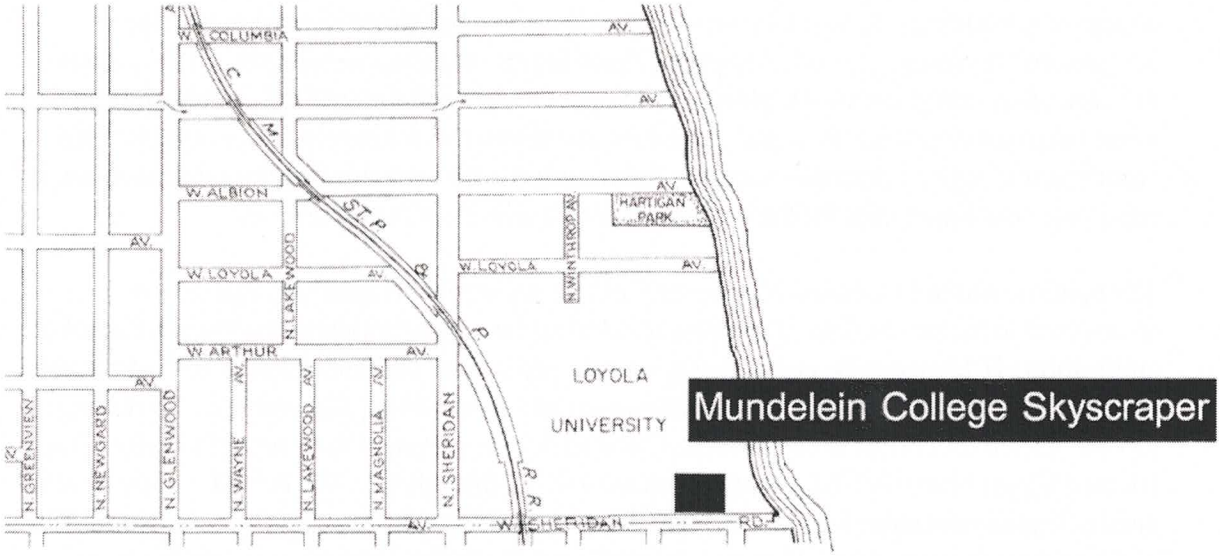
The building was built to house Mundelein College, a Catholic woman's college newly-established in the late 1920s at the urging of Cardinal George Mundelein, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Chicago, who energetically encouraged the establishment and growth of Catholic-run colleges and universities in the Chicago area during the 1910s, 20s, and 30s. The college represents a collaborative effort between Cardinal Mundelein and the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (B.V.M.), who organized and ran the college. The B.V.M. sisters were in need of higher education for their order, and they wanted to offer the same to lay women. The building was the joint effort of Iowa architect Nairne W. Fisher, the architect selected by the B.V.M. order, who was the designer of the building; and the Cardinal's favorite architect, Chicagoan Joseph W. McCarthy, who supervised construction.

The Establishment of Mundelein College

The founding of Mundelein College in 1930 and the construction of its visually striking "skyscraper" building reflect the growing options for higher education that young American women had by the early twentieth century. The earliest colleges in the United States, both before and immediately after independence, were formed to educate young men. It was only in the post-Civil War era that co-educational state universities were established under the Morrill Land-Grant Act of 1862. At roughly the same time, private colleges, beginning with Vassar College in 1865, began to be established specifically for the education of women.

As with secular or Protestant-run institutions of higher learning, nineteenth-century Roman Catholic colleges had also been restricted to male students. By the beginning of the twentieth century, however, Catholic women's colleges began to be established throughout the United States to provide Catholic-oriented educations to young women. Early examples included Notre Dame, a Baltimore secondary school that expanded its curriculum to include college courses in 1896, and Trinity College in Washington, D.C., the first Catholic institution formed specifically for the higher education of women which opened in 1900.

With the establishment of Catholic women's colleges in the early twentieth century, female religious orders began to take on educational roles similar to those of male counterparts, such as the Jesuits and Vincentians, the founders of Loyola University and DePaul University respectively. One of these was the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (B.V.M.), the founders of Mundelein College. The order had been founded by five young women in Dublin, Ireland, in 1831. Within two years, the women relocated to Philadelphia, where they taught school and formally established themselves as a religious order. The newly-named Sisters of Charity of the B.V.M. relocated to Dubuque, Iowa,



The Mundelein College Skyscraper Building is located on the campus of Loyola Univerity on Sheridan Road and the lakefront in the Rogers Park neighborhood.

Top: The Mundelein College Skyscraper Building, constructed in 1930-31, was designed in the Art Deco architectural style and possesses a distinctive setback form and geometric ornament.

in 1843, where they founded a women's boarding school, St. Mary's Academy (today known as Clarke College).

Chicago's Catholic colleges and universities saw great growth in the first quarter of the twentieth century. DePaul University, established in 1898, evolved from St. Vincent's Academy, founded earlier in the Sheffield neighborhood as a preparatory school. Loyola University, which would later share side-by-side campuses with Mundelein College, was founded in 1870 as St. Ignatius College by the Jesuit order. The first Catholic college for women in the Chicago area was Rosary College, founded in 1922 in the western suburb of River Forest.

In 1916, Cardinal George Mundelein became archbishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Cardinal Mundelein was greatly interested in expanding opportunities for Catholic higher education. He envisioned a "Catholic University of the West," formed from a coalition of existing Chicago-area Catholic colleges and universities, plus new colleges for women. The need for Catholic women's colleges was not only for the education of Catholic lay women, but also for the training of members of religious orders, many of whom taught in parochial schools.

In 1916, Cardinal Mundelein met with three B.V.M. sisters to discuss this issue. Mother Mary Cecilia Dougherty, superior general of the order; Sister Mary Isabella Kane, provincial superior for the Chicago area; and Sister Mary Lambertina Doran, principal of St. Pius Elementary School on the City's West Side, proposed the creation of a "house of studies" where sisters could make retreats and live while attending summer classes at DePaul and Loyola. Mundelein not only approved of the idea but decided that it would become one of the new women's colleges that would form his "Catholic University of the West" and urged the B.V.M. order to finance the college.

Financial support was not forthcoming at that time, and plans for the college stalled. Additionally, the establishment of Rosary College in 1922, by the Dominican order, satisfied for a time a need for a Chicago-area Catholic women's college. The B.V.M. order instead established Immaculata High School on Chicago's Far North Side in 1922, and soon offered extension courses through Loyola University.

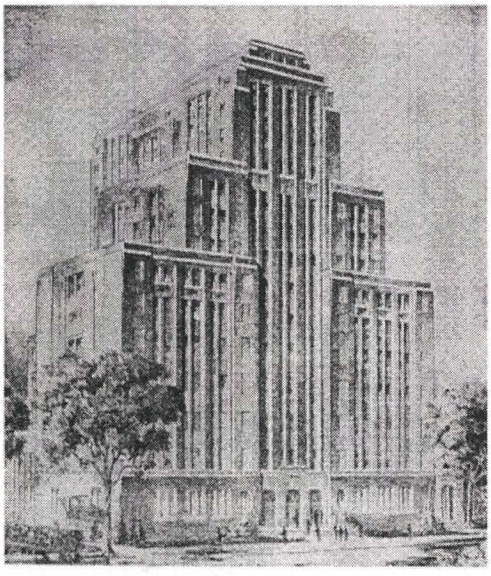
Cardinal Mundelein continued to desire an additional women's college for Chicago, however, and in 1928 was actively working again with the B.V.M. sisters to establish such an institution. From a conversation between Mundelein and Sister Isabella in April 1928, the mother superior's meeting notes described a high-rise, multi-purpose building for the proposed college:

> 75 ft. frontage. Run up into the air. Cafeteria and Gym below (swimming pool) the Classrooms above & the Sisters' quarters above the classrooms. Roof garden on top screened in for Sisters – terraces round top Near elevated station easy access – not necessarily far from Immaculata. If you keep to the center of the city you will attract the girls in number of a 1000. Later on put up a dormitory building for out of town girls. Decidedly a day school. It is the first women's college in the city. The time is ripe now for a progressive Community like ours to make it the leading College in the city. It is a novel idea

Catholics Will Build College for Women Near Loyola Campus

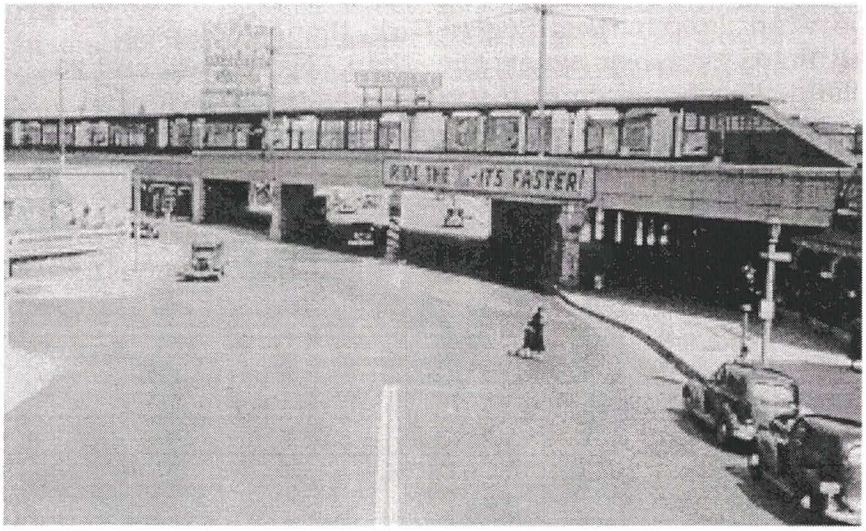
Plans for a new Catholic educational institution for women, to be affiliated with Loyola university and to be conducted by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, were announced yesterday. The school will be called Mundelein college.

The sisters, members of a teaching order now conducting parochial schools and private high schools in the archdiocese of Chicago, recently acquired a site for the college at Sheridan road and Devon avenue, adjoining the north side of the Loyola campus. Ground will be broken in the spring for a building of the skyscraper type. The structure will contain class rooms, lecture halls, laboratories, a cafeteria, gymnasium, swimming pool, auditorium and library.



The founding of Mundelein College represented a collaborative effort between Cardinal George Mundelein (top left) and Mother Isabella Kane (top center) of the Sisters of Charity of the B.V.M. Top right: Chicago Daily Tribune article announcing the project. Left: A rendering of the "modern-style" building by design architect Nairne Fisher. Bottom: The groundbreaking for the Mundelein College Skyscraper Building took place on November 1, 1929.

Top left: A view of the Mundelein College Skyscraper under construction in 1930. Top right: The building's two large-scale statues (seen here before installation) were designed by Charles Fisher and carved in the studio of the North Shore Stone Company. Right: The formal dedication of Mundelein College on June 3, 1921. Bottom: The Loyola Avenue station of the "L" line seen in 1937. Rapid transit provided access to the college making it a popular commuter school for students from across the City.



> that will attract girls – It is the modern way of living. Why not have the expanse go up instead of spreading...

The "run up into the air" may have been dictated by prudent land acquisition costs. Since the order was carefully watching its limited financial resources, a skyscraper college building would save on the amount of land needed.

Sister Isabella and Cardinal Mundelein considered a centrally-located site in the Loop to take advantage of its excellent public transportation. Instead, the two agreed on a Far North Side lakefront site adjacent to Loyola University, on the boundary between the Rogers Park and Edgewater neighborhoods.

Originally a farming community in the mid nineteenth century, Rogers Park initially developed as a small suburb connected to Chicago by the Chicago & North Western Railway after the railline's construction in the 1850s. Most of the community's early development centered on either side of the railroad, located west of Clark Street, and much of the lakefront still remained vacant in 1893 when Rogers Park was annexed to Chicago.

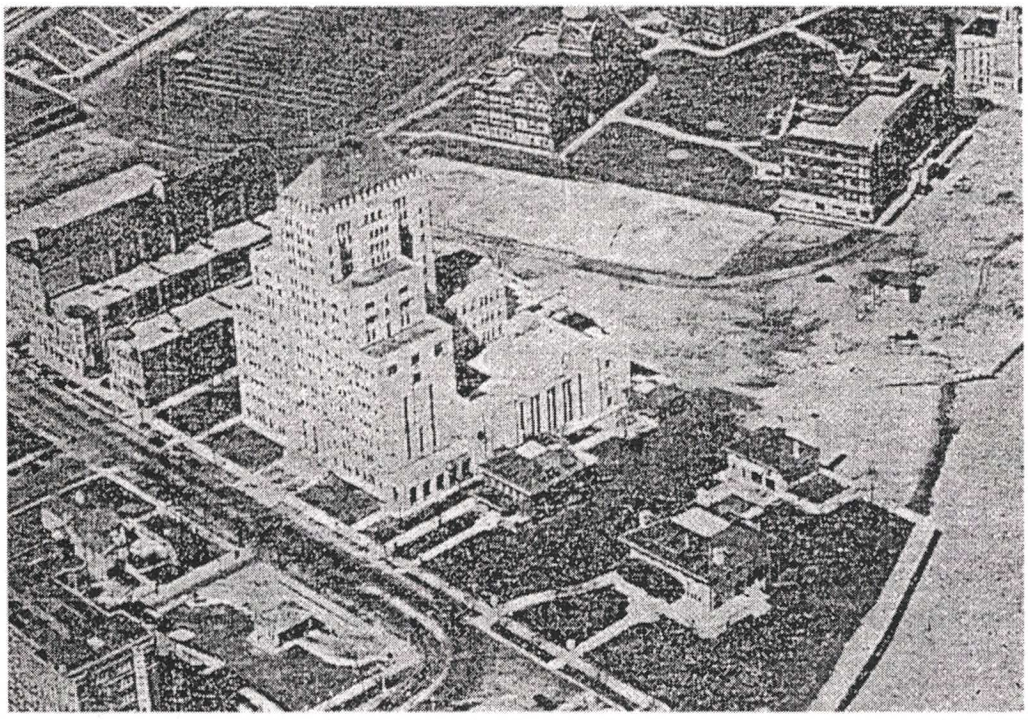
In 1906, the Rogers Park neighborhood received an important institutional anchor when the Jesuit order bought a large vacant tract of lakefront land east of Sheridan Road with the intention of founding a preparatory school and college there. In 1909, a year after the Northwestern Elevated Railroad (now the Chicago Transit Authority's Red Line) was extended past the western edge of the property, Loyola Academy was opened on the Jesuit-owned property. Then, in 1922, the main campus of St. Ignatius College, now known as Loyola University, moved from its Near West Side home to the property.

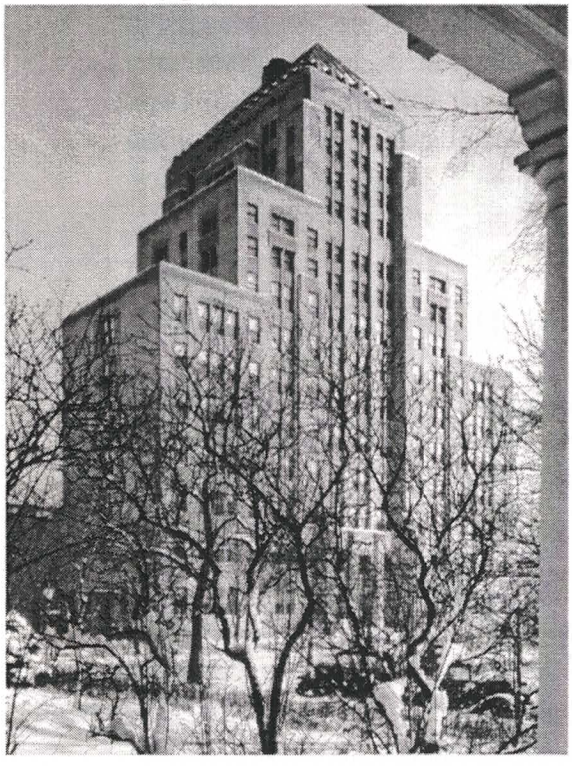
Building Design, Construction and Description

In October 1928, the Immaculata and St. Mary's High School buildings were mortgaged to secure a loan of $500,000 for the new Mundelein College building. By May 1929, two large lots facing Sheridan Road and just south of the Loyola University campus were purchased.

Cardinal Mundelein's favored architect, Joseph McCarthy, had been working on a design for Mundelein College's new building, and he submitted his first plans to Sister Isabella in June 1929. His first design was a fifteen-story, red-brick skyscraper with limestone trim in a style reminiscent the Colonial Revival. The building's steel-frame structure supported ten classroom floors topped by five floors of convent living quarters. Sister Isabella rejected this initial design as too expensive. In the months that followed, two later versions submitted by McCarthy were also rejected.

Meanwhile, Sister Isabella recruited Nairne W. Fisher, a Dubuque, Iowa, architect who had previously done work for her, to become involved with the project. In August 1929,





Top: An aerial view of Mundelein College seen shortly after its completion. The building is situated on the southern edge of the present day Loyola University campus and is a distinctive visual sight on the Far North lakeshore. The building retains a high degree of physical integrity. A view of the building in 1940 (left) and as it appears today (right).

she named Fisher the design architect for the project while designating McCarthy as the supervising architect. McCarthy's involvement insured Cardinal Mundelein's ongoing interest in the project. Within a month, Fisher's plans, which called for a high-rise building in the "modern style," as it was then called, with vertical lines, numerous setbacks, and low-relief stone sculpture, were approved.

While the Cardinal was interested in the establishment of the college, it was the B.V.M. sisters who directed the work as well as secured the financing for the building. Sister Isabella kept in close contact with Fisher while Sister Mary Justitia Coffey, who had moved to Chicago to oversee to construction of the building, was in daily contact with the general contractor, William Lynch. Groundbreaking took place on November 1, 1929, which was the ninety-sixth anniversary of the founding of the B.V.M. order in the United States.

The stock market crash of October 1929 and the subsequent Depression did not stop construction. The project was supported by donations from twenty-eight B.V.M.-run schools in the Chicago area. Grade school children recall taking walks with their parents to the lakeshore to watch the progress of "their" new college.

The building permit for the Mundelein College Skyscraper Building is dated January 8, 1930, and the owner is listed as the Charity Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The architect was listed as J.W. McCarthy and the builder is the W.J. Lynch Company. The estimated cost was $1,500,000. The final construction report, indicating completion of the building, was filed on September 4, 1931, and it revised the building's cost to $2,500,000.

On September 1, 1930, the sisters moved into their nearly completed skyscraper and two weeks later, on September 15, registration for classes began. Three hundred women enrolled, a number which far exceeded expectations. Sister Mary Justitia, was appointed as the college's first president. Nineteen academic departments offered instruction. The first faculty consisted of religious and lay members. They were recruited from within the B.V.M. ranks and also included six laywomen, five laymen and seven priests, six of them Jesuits from Loyola University.

Building description

The Mundelein College Skyscraper Building is located at the southern edge of both the Rogers Park community area and the present-day Loyola University Chicago campus. It faces Sheridan Road at the point where the north-south street becomes an east-west street skirting the southern edge of the Loyola campus, and is a visually dramatic presence for northbound drivers on Sheridan Road.

The building is a 14-story steel-and concrete-frame building faced with gray Indiana limestone and designed in the Art Deco architectural style. The building has a "setback" form typical of Art Deco-style skyscrapers of the late 1920s and early 30s, rising 198 feet and stepping back above the seventh and tenth floors. The building's floor plan is T-

shaped at ground level, then reduces to a simple rectangle at its roofline, which is capped by a hip roof of metal. The rear low-rise section of the building houses space for a gymnasium and swimming pool to the northwest and a large auditorium to the northeast. The roof of this section originally was an open-air exercise deck.

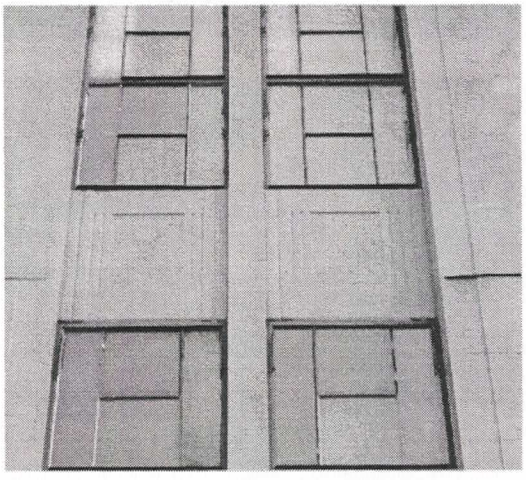
Although only 14 floors, the building "reads" like a much taller building due to its overall form, visual sense of heightened verticality, and spare detail. The building's height and setbacks were governed by the City's zoning ordinance, enacted in 1923, which encouraged taller buildings with setbacks. The building's main (south-facing) façade emphasizes verticality by recessing the building's central section (which rises to the building's tallest point) and through the use of narrow, slightly projecting vertical piers.

The building's exterior decorative features include two large-scale statues of Christian archangels flanking the historic main entrance facing Sheridan Road. These statues' stylized human forms evolve from cylindrical fluted columns at ground level to robed human forms and visually dominate the building's main (south) façade. Designed by Charles Fisher, the architect's brother, they were carved by the North Shore Stone Company. One statue, representing the archangel Uriel, holds a cross-decorated book in her left hand while pointing skyward with her right hand. She represents the poet John Milton's "sharpest-sighted spirit of all" who holds the Book of Wisdom. The other statue, representing the archangel Jophiel, holds a celestial orb topped by a cross in her right hand while raising a burning torch in her left. She represents the beauty of God and guards the Tree of Knowledge in Eden; she holds the planet Earth in her right hand, and lifts the torch of knowledge with her left. The statues' robes are incised with geometric shapes, especially a spoked-wheel pattern.

Other exterior ornament is concentrated around doors, windows and roof parapets, and includes both low-relief stone ornament and metal decoration in the Art Deco style. Building entrance doors and transoms, as well as first-floor windows, are ornamented with boldly-geometric, metal grillework decorated with a variety of zig-zags and interlocking squares and rectangles. The transoms over the central door on the main (south) elevation, as well as the door on the west elevation, have the initials "BVM" within a 16-pointed star. Below this is the phrase "*Sicut Lilium Interspinas*" or "Find the lily among thorns." Decorative-metal lamps shaped like set-back "skyscrapers" flank the west entrance, which is sheltered by an original rounded-corner, Art Deco-style canopy. The building's east entrance is sheltered by a broad loggia.

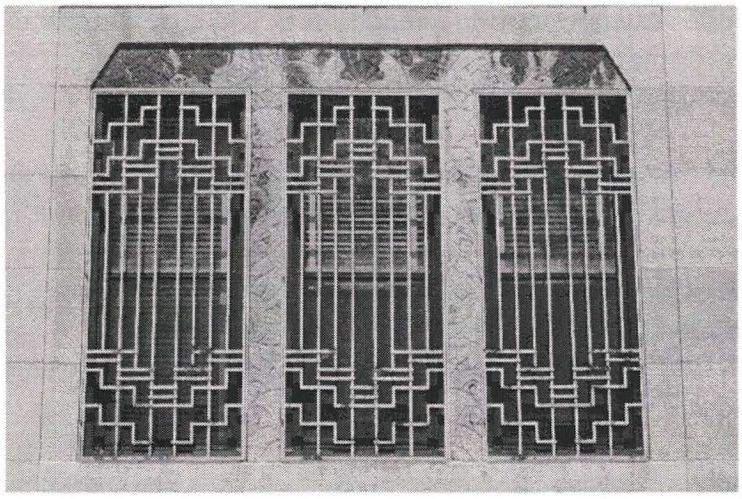
Art Deco-style abstracted foliate and geometric ornament is carved or incised into window surrounds and spandrels, as well as along setback parapets. Ornamental patterns include swirls, coils, and floral motifs, the most significant of which is the lily, a long-standing symbol of the Virgin Mary and the central motif in the B.V.M. order's insignia, which can also be seen carved into the building's exterior.

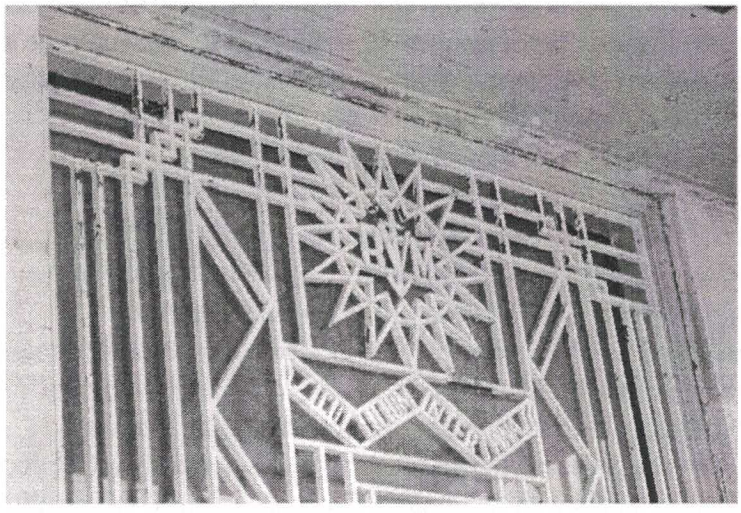
The Mundelein College Skyscraper Building was conceived to be an all-purpose building for the new college, housing a variety of public and private functions. It was built to contain classrooms, offices, a large auditorium, dining rooms, a chapel, and recreation facilities such as a



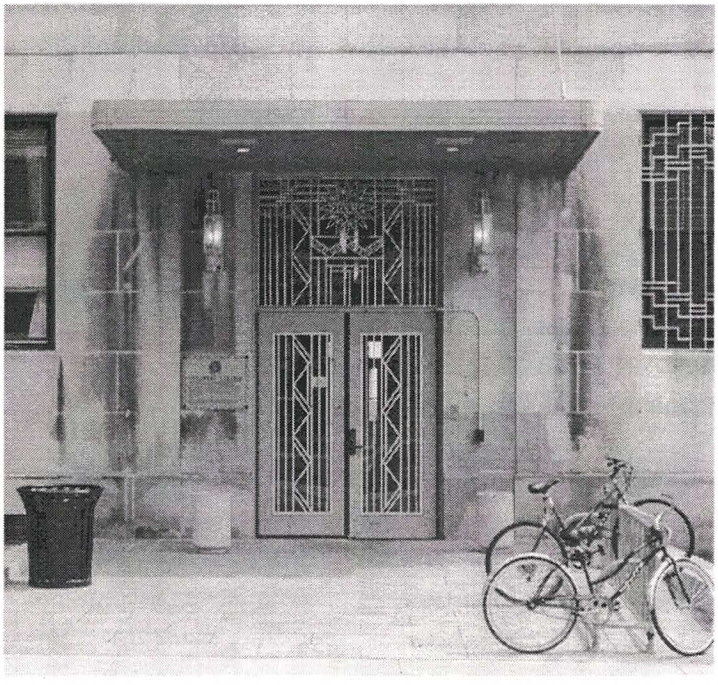
Above and left: Due to its overall form, visual sense of heightened verticality, and its spare detail, the building appears to soar much higher than its fourteen stories. Bottom left: The building is T-shaped in its overall plan. Bottom right: Its dramatic main entry faces Sheridan Road.

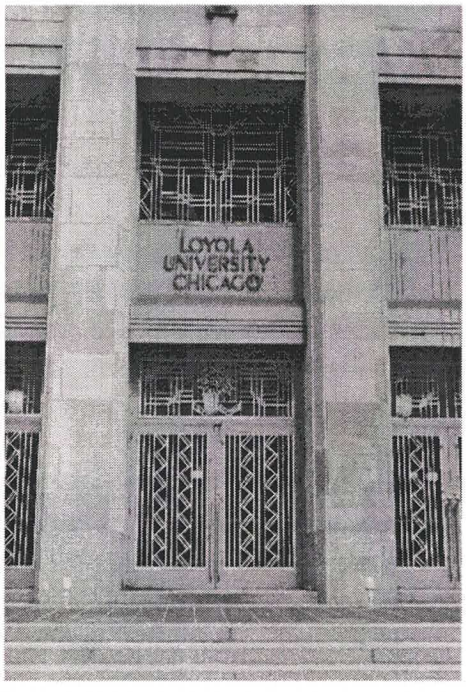
The building's exterior decorative features include large-scale statues of Christian archangels Jophiel (bottom left) and Uriel (bottom right). Additional ornament is concentrated around the windows and roof parapet (top).





Art Deco-style abstracted foliate and geometric ornament is incised into spandrels and featured in decorative metal grillework.





gymnasium, swimming pool, and rooftop exercise deck. In addition, the B.V.M. sisters in charge of the college had private living spaces on the ninth through fourteenth floors, with open-air terraces atop setbacks at the eighth and eleventh floors.

The main (south) entrance leads to, first a rectangular vestibule, then a wide first-floor corridor at right angles to the main entrance that connects the east and west building entrances. Both have floors laid in a checkerboard pattern with tan and white marble from Alabama and Tennessee. The vestibule walls are covered in pinkish-tan "Florida Rose" marble, while the main corridor walls are surfaced with light tan "Botticino" marble accented with "Florida Rose" marble. Baseboards in both spaces are gray "Tinos" marble. Bronze ceiling fixtures with elongated white glass globes ornament both the vestibule and main corridor.

Opposite the main entrance is a grandly-scaled staircase connecting the building's first and second floors. Boldly rectangular in design, the staircase is also faced with marble and consists of a twin set of stairs rising to a common landing, then one set of stairs to the second floor. The staircase's retaining walls are boldly stepped and decorated with triple metal bands, resulting in a visual effect that recalls both Classical capitals and the building's exterior setbacks. The crest of the Archbishop of Chicago is centered on the wall below the staircase's upper risers.

Many doors and entrances off the main first-floor corridor, as well as silver-finish metal bulletin display cases, add to the building's overall Art Deco-style character. Elevators clustered to the west of the main staircase have highly decorative, Art Deco-style doors of polished metal ornamented with an incised V-shaped design of coils and chevrons framed by a border of triangles and arcs. Art Deco-style clocks are situated above elevator doors. Doors to the "East Room" and "Cardinal's Room," both social rooms on the first floor, have parquet inlays in diamond-shaped geometric patterns. Other room entrances off the main corridor have Art Deco-style door surrounds, with doors recessed within doorjambs with fluted sides. Decorative-metal grillework can be found throughout the first-floor main corridor, including tall radiator screens perforated with the building's stepped outline. A similar building outline motif is also repeated in doorknob plates.

Skyscrapers and the Art Deco Style

The Mundelein College Skyscraper Building is a distinctive example of an Art Deco-style skyscraper, a building type and architectural style of importance to Chicago architectural history. It also is an unusual Chicago skyscraper intended for educational purposes and exemplifies the growing, yet still rare, interest in high-rise college buildings in the United States in the years immediately prior to the Great Depression of the 1930s.

By 1930, as the Mundelein skyscraper was being built, high-rise buildings were increasingly common in Chicago. The City's earliest skyscrapers, dating from the 1880s and 90s, had been commercial office buildings built in response to rising land values in Chicago's Loop. In the 1910s and 20s, high-rise apartment buildings also were being built in fashionable lakefront neighborhoods such as the Gold Coast, Lincoln Park, Lake View, and Hyde Park. By 1930, there also were a

handful of high-rise office and bank buildings that marked major neighborhood commercial intersections, including the West Town Bank Building at Madison and Western on Chicago's West Side (designated a Chicago Landmark) or the Northwest Tower at the six-corners intersection of Milwaukee, Damen and North on the Northwest Side.

But high-rise buildings built for educational purposes were rare in the United States; and almost non-existent in Chicago before the construction of the Mundelein skyscraper. Colleges and universities traditionally had cultivated a more small-town, "Village in a Garden" setting, with low-rise buildings centered on open areas such as quadrangles. But advances in building technology, including high-speed elevators, combined with rising land values in large cities made high-rise college buildings more attractive.

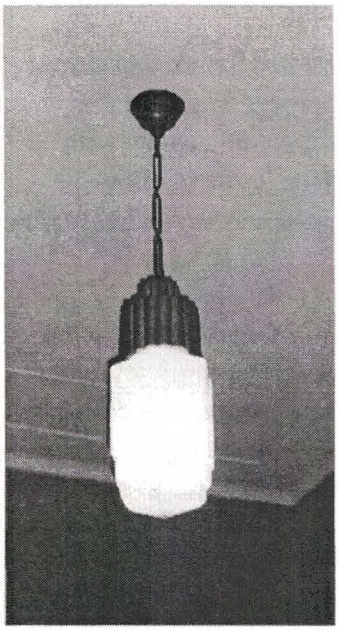
As he worked on the Mundelein design, architect Nairne Fisher had before him a few existing or under-construction examples of college skyscrapers. In Chicago, the Montgomery Ward Memorial Building, built for Northwestern University's Near North Side campus, was called the "nation's first Collegiate Gothic skyscraper" upon its completion in 1926. Its architect, James Gamble Rogers, had faced a similar program constraint, that of a limited urban site, as did Fisher.

Also, in August 1929, as Fisher was working on the Mundelein skyscraper, Mother Isabella sent him to view two skyscraper college buildings elsewhere in the United States. He visited the "Cathedral of Learning" at the University of Pittsburgh, still under construction after being started in 1926. Designed by architect Charles Z. Klauder, it was a 42-story, steel-frame structure clad with Indiana limestone and designed in a modernized Gothic Revival style with setbacks. The other building that Fisher visited was a new 13-story building for St. John's College of Accounting, Commerce and Finance in New York, completed in 1929. This building had a simple rectangular form divided into the tripartite sections common to commercial skyscrapers and with Gothic Revival-style details.

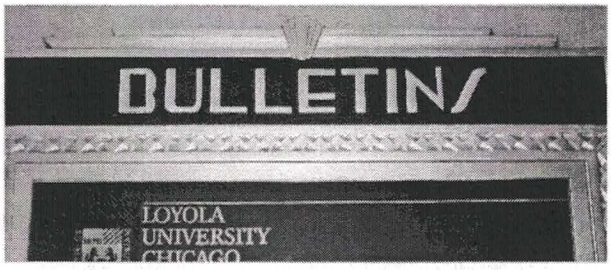
Despite these existing examples, Fisher chose to build the Mundelein College Skyscraper Building in the then-fashionable "modernistic" style of Art Deco, rather than the more traditional Gothic Revival style. The style was named after the Exposition des Art Decoratifs, a world's fair held in Paris in 1925 that emphasized highly decorative modern architectural and decorative styles.

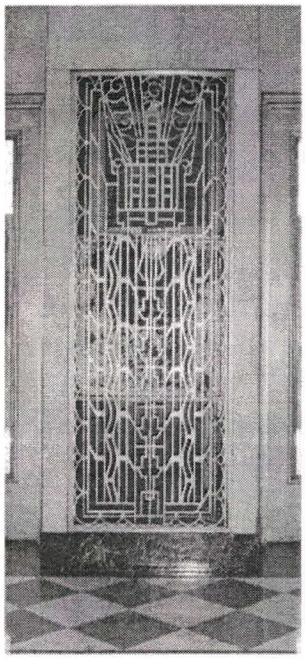
Many architects in the late 1920s were in search of a new "modern" style, and Art Deco developed as a non-historic, yet decorative architectural style that expressed through its forms and ornament a striking sense of modernity. The design of Art Deco-style buildings such as the Mundelein skyscraper utilizes hard-edged, linear forms with an emphasis on verticality. Setbacks often are used to emphasize both a building's geometric form and height. Projecting piers and recessed windows with decorated spandrels or surrounds add to an Art Deco-style building's sense of vertical composition.

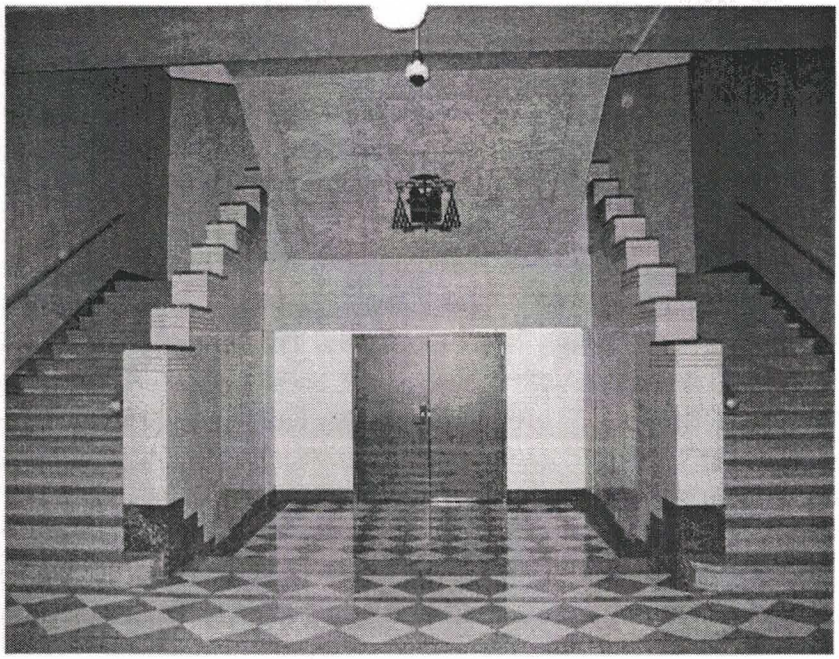
Art Deco ornament was stylized in a variety of hard-edged geometric and abstracted foliate designs, usually found around entrances, windows, and roof parapets. Although the movement



The building's entry vestibule (top left), main corridor, and grand staircase (bottom left) add to the building's overall Art Deco character. These spaces feature many decorative elements such as metal grillework (bottom right), display cases (left), and light fixtures (top right).







is not overtly based on historic precedent, there are numerous influences for its decoration. Art Deco-style details such as stylized flowers, sunbursts, chevrons, coiling shells, and wave-like patterns have origins as exotic as Egypt and the Orient. Many Art Deco-style buildings also utilized simplified, abstracted Classical ornament, and the style was sometimes called "Modern Classicism." Considered a "modern" or "modernistic" style in the late 1920s and early 1930s, Art Deco was preferred by Americans over the more austere International Style developed by avant-garde architects in Europe during the period.

American architects who designed skyscrapers in the early 20th century were confronted with the challenge of designing a tall building without denying its innate verticality. By the mid-1920s most historic revival styles had been considered, including the Classical and Gothic Revivals. As an architectural style without historic ties to low-rise building types, Art Deco was readily adapted to skyscraper design. Art Deco building forms emphasize soaring vertical masses with crisply defined corners and setbacks, while ornamentation was sleekly modern and easily produced in terra cotta, stone, and decorative metals.

In Chicago, Art Deco-style skyscrapers were commonly built in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Those comparable to the Mundelein College Skyscraper Building in their general overall form, sense of verticality, use of gray limestone cladding, and stylized ornament include the Palmolive Building at 919 N. Michigan (1927-29, Holabird & Root), the Chicago Board of Trade Building at 141 W. Jackson (1930, Holabird & Root), and the West Town Bank Building at Western and Madison (1929-30, Mundie & Jensen). All three are designated Chicago Landmarks.

Architects Nairne Fisher and Joseph McCarthy

Nairne W. Fisher (1899–1980) served during World War I and then studied architecture briefly at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Following his return, he opened offices first in St. Cloud, Minnesota, then in Dubuque, Iowa. He worked with Mother Isabella on the buildings for Clarke College in Dubuque, including the remodeling of the B.V.M. motherhouse. In association with her, he also designed several parochial schools, including the Holy Angels Academy in Milwaukee, built in 1928 in a restrained Art Deco style. In collaboration with architect John Marshall, Fisher also designed the Central High School in Grand Forks, North Dakota, in 1936. Now known as the Central Middle School, it also is Art Deco in style.

Joseph William McCarthy (1884-1965) was the most prolific Chicago designer of buildings for the Roman Catholic Church in the early twentieth century. He was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, and his parents moved to Chicago while McCarthy was a teenager. He attended the parish high school of St. Gabriel's on the South Side and then entered the firm of Daniel Burnham. He opened his own office in 1911.

His first commission was for Corpus Christi Church at 49th St. and Dr. Martin Luther King Dr. for the Archdiocese of Chicago, and it became one of the first consecrated by Cardinal Mundelein in 1916 after he took office. Mundelein preferred to make all final decisions on the

Art Deco-style skyscrapers were built in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Some examples include: the Palmolive Building (top right), the Chicago Board of Trade Building (top left) and the Mundelein College Skyscraper Building (bottom).

selection of architects and designs for Archdiocesan building projects himself, and McCarthy became his favorite architect. He completed twenty-eight churches for the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1916 and 1945. These include St. Thomas of Cantebury Church at 4815 N. Kenmore Ave., St. Sabina Church at 7821 S. Throop Ave., St. Basil Church at 1840 W. Garfield Blvd., St. Philip Neri Church at 2126 E. 72nd St., and Queen of Angels Church at 2334 W. Sunnyside Ave.

One of McCarthy's largest commissions was the design of Cardinal Mundelein's most important project, the new St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in suburban Lake County. Mundelein himself selected a New England-based Colonial Revival style for the sprawling complex of classrooms and residential buildings. McCarthy later repeated this so-called "Mundelein Colonial" style in at least six other churches in the Chicago archdiocese.

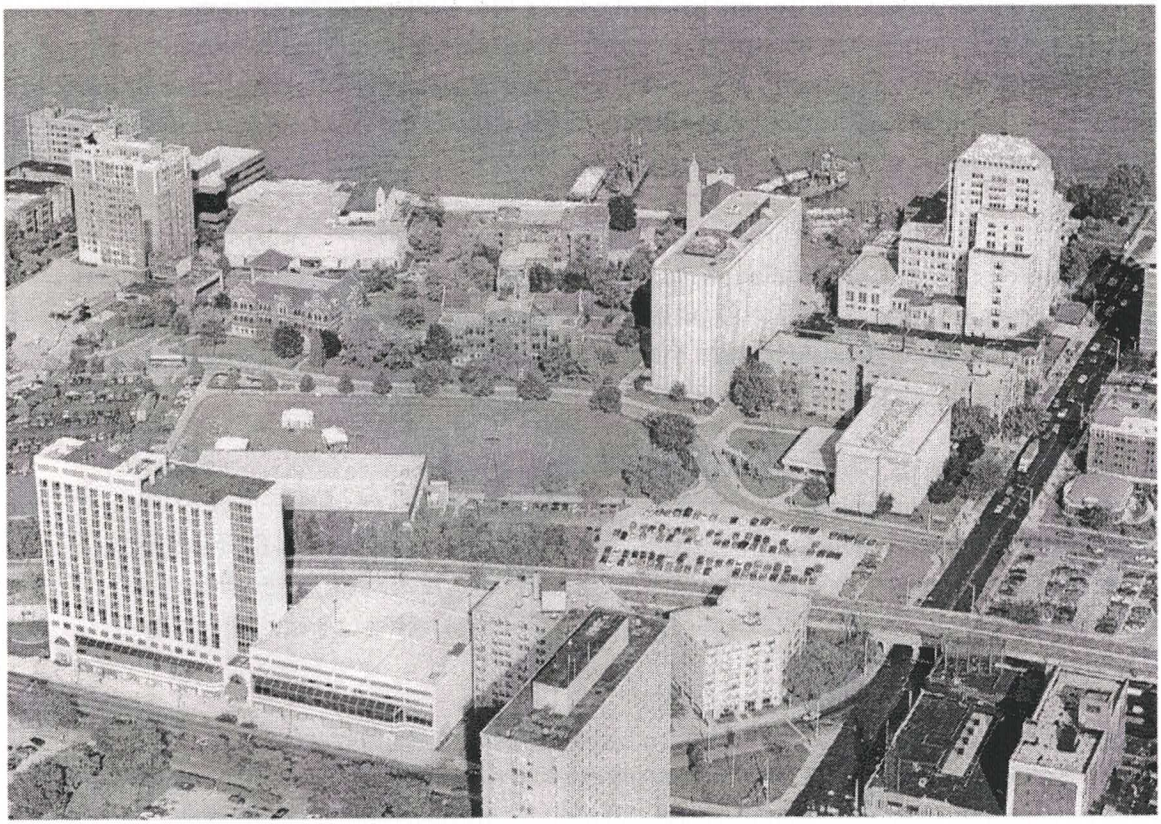
Later Years

Upon its completion, and as the college's only building for several years, the Mundelein College Skyscraper Building was the focus of college life. College traditions were quickly established incorporating the building, including a monthly college newspaper, *The Skyscraper*, and a yearbook, *The Tower*. The first Christmas in the new building established a candle-lighting tradition. In their book, *Mundelein Voices: The Women's College Experience*, editors Ann Harrington and Prudence Moylan cite a former alumnae:

> With the building in total darkness, candles gleaming in the windows formed a fourteen-story cross of lights. Sheridan Road traffic slowed to savor the richness, students huddled outside in the cold to view their own creation, and the next morning over breakfast, Chicagoans read about it in their newspapers.

In subsequent decades, Mundelein College expanded its offerings and its real-estate holdings. Two adjacent properties to the east were purchased. One was a red-brick mansion which became a residence hall (now demolished). The other was the distinctive stone residence of engineer Albert Wheeler, built in 1909, which became the library. (The Wheeler House is now known as Piper Hall and is part of the Loyola University Campus.)

During World War II, the student body devoted many extracurricular activities to the war effort. Proceeds from student events were invested in war bonds. Mundelein College became a training center for women recruits to military service. The first Midwest college unit of the American Red Cross was started at Mundelein. In 1945, when Sister Justitia retired as president, the college was fully accredited with an enrollment of 900 students. In the late 1940s, the quarterly literary magazine, *The Review*, and *The Skyscraper* won awards from the Associated Collegiate press. During the college's 25th anniversary, Mayor Richard J. Daley joined Cardinal Stritch in paying tribute to the contributions of the B.V.M. sisters to the life of Chicago. By this time, half of the student enrollment was enrolled in teacher education.



The Mundelein College Skyscraper Building is significant as an important building for Roman Catholic higher education in Chicago for more than 70 years, first as the headquarters for Mundelein College, then as an important building owned by Loyola University Chicago. Top right: Mundelein students going to classes in the 1950s. Top right and bottom: The building, now known as the Mundelein Center, as it appears today.

Under the leadership of Sister Ann Ida Gannon, who became president in 1957, the college entered a period of tremendous growth. In the 1960s it was the largest Catholic women's college in the United States. A new dormitory, Coffey Hall, was built in 1961, and the college purchased additional properties near the original skyscraper building. Mundelein's curriculum combined the classical arts and sciences with the practical arts of business and home economics while stressing traditional respect for clergy, personal piety and social action. By its Golden Jubilee in 1980, the college had approximately 8,600 alumni.

In 1991, Mundelein College, faced with enrollment and financial issues, agreed to a merger with Loyola University Chicago, and the Mundelein College Skyscraper Building became part of the Loyola University campus. Today, Loyola University Chicago is the largest institution and employer in the Rogers Park neighborhood.

The Mundelein College Skyscraper Building remains an important visual "landmark" for the thousands of Chicagoans that pass by the building on Sheridan Road daily. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and is color-coded "red," the highest rating, in the Chicago Historic Resources Survey. As of May 2006, the building is being rehabilitated by Loyola University Chicago.

Criteria for Designation

According to the Municipal Code of Chicago (Sect. 2-120-620 and -630), the Commission on Chicago Landmarks has the authority to make a preliminary recommendation of landmark designation for a building, structure, object, or district if the Commission determines it meets two or more of the stated "criteria for landmark designation," as well as possesses a significant degree of its historic design integrity.

The following should be considered by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks in determining whether to recommend that the Mundelein College Skyscraper Building be designated as a Chicago Landmark.

Criterion 1: Critical Part of the City's History

Its value as an example of the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other aspect of the heritage of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois or the United States.

- The Mundelein College Skyscraper Building remains the historic building that best exemplifies the importance of Mundelein College as an important educational institution in Chicago's history.
- The building is significant as an important building for Roman Catholic higher education in Chicago for more than 70 years, first as the headquarters for Mundelein College, then as an important building owned by Loyola University Chicago.

Criterion 4: Significant Architecture

Its exemplification of an architectural type or style distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship.

- The Mundelein College Skyscraper Building is one of the earliest and most distinctive high-rise college buildings in Chicago, and is the only Chicago example of an Art Deco-style skyscraper used for an educational institution.
- The building is an outstanding example of the Art Deco style as used for a high-rise building, with a building form that emphasizes verticality and crisply delineated cubic forms combined with non-historic ornamentation.
- The building's decoration is finely designed and crafted from stone and decorative metal, and includes exterior figural sculptures and bands of low-relief geometric and abstracted foliate ornament carved from limestone; interior marble floors and walls; and decorative-metal exterior and interior grillework, elevator doors, and light fixtures.

Criterion 7: Unique Visual Feature

Its unique location or distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City of Chicago.

- The Mundelein College Skyscraper Building, situated on the southern edge of the Loyola University Chicago campus at a visually prominent curve in Sheridan Rd., is a noteworthy visual "landmark" for thousands of Chicagogans driving past the building daily.

Integrity Criteria

The integrity of the proposed landmark must be preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and ability to express its historic community, architecture or aesthetic interest or value.

The Mundelein College Skyscraper Building displays excellent physical integrity and today its exterior and first-floor vestibule and main corridor stand almost unchanged from their original 1931 appearance. The building retains its historic site and relationship to the surrounding Rogers Park and Edgewater community areas, as well as its historic overall exterior design, building materials, and most detailing. The interior also retains historic integrity, including the building's first-floor entrance vestibule, main corridor, and central staircase with its decorative stone, metal and wood finishes.

Exterior alterations include ramps for accessibility added to the east side of the building. In addition, most original windows have been replaced with newer windows that replicate with their double-hung, metal sash the building's original windows.

Significant Historical and Architectural Features

Whenever a building, structure, object, or district is under consideration for landmark designation, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks is required to identify the "significant historical and architectural features" of the property. This is done to enable the owners and the public to understand which elements are considered most important to preserve the historical and architectural character of the proposed landmark.

Based upon its preliminary evaluation of the Mundelein College Skyscraper Building, the Commission staff recommends that the significant features be identified as:

- All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the building
- The first-floor entrance vestibule, main corridor, central staircase up to the second-floor landing, and historic fixtures and finishes, including, but not necessarily limited to, marble floors and walls, light fixtures, elevator and corridor doors, and decorative grilles.

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Terry Tatum, pp. 3, 8 (bottom right), 11, 12, 13, 16 (top right and left, center, & bottom left), 18 (bottom), and 20 (top right).
From Harrington and Moylan, *Mundelein Voices*: pp. 5 (top center) and 6 (center).
Chicago Daily Tribune: pp. 5 (top right) and 8 (top).
Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Name_Cathedral,_Chicago): p. 5 (top left).
From Mundelein College Records, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago: pp. 5 (center and bottom), 6 (top left and right), and 8 (bottom left).
From Pacyga and Skerrett, *Chicago: City of Neighborhoods*: p. 6 (bottom).
Linda Peters: p. 16 (bottom right).
Commission on Chicago Landmarks: p. 18 (top left and right).
From *Mundelein College*: p. 20 (top left).
From Cameron, *Above Chicago*: p. 20 (bottom).

The Commission on Chicago Landmarks, whose nine members are appointed by the Mayor, was established in 1968 by city ordinance. It is responsible for recommending to the City Council that individual buildings, sites, objects, or entire districts be designated as Chicago Landmarks, which protects them by law. The Commission is staffed by the Chicago Department of Planning and Development, 33 N. LaSalle St., Room 1600, Chicago, IL 60602; (312-744-3200) phone; (312-744-2958) TTY; (312-744-9140) fax; web site, http:www.cityofchicago.org/landmarks.

This Preliminary Summary of Information is subject to possible revision and amendment during the designation proceedings. Only language contained within the City Council's final landmarkDesignation ordinance should be regarded as final.